

SCHEMA EVOLUTION IN REPLICATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Schema evolution involves defining flavored object groups. Specifically, related
5 collections of replicated tables and other database objects, which are defined as belonging
to an object group, are given different "flavors." A flavor describes different subsets of
the objects and even different subsets of the columns in the master tables. In one
embodiment, when one site in a distributed database system propagates changes to a
replicated database object, the current flavor for the site is also transmitted, so that the
10 destination site can make the necessary adjustments in the uploaded changes by dropping
the values for obsolete columns and using default values for new columns.

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